UIPM 2023 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP ANKARA / BUDAPEST

Top: Ieva Serapinaite (LTU) and Mohanad Shaban (EGY) celebrate their individual glory at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara
Bottom: Blanka Guzi (HUN) and Woongtae Jun (KOR) bask in the moment of triumph at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest

Top: Ieva Serapinaite (LTU) and Mohanad Shaban (EGY) celebrate their individual glory at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara
Bottom: Blanka Guzi (HUN) and Woongtae Jun (KOR) bask in the moment of triumph at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest
World records tumble during an electrifying Saturday as Budapest witnesses Laser Run heroics

Laser Run is firmly established as the dramatic climax of any Modern Pentathlon competition and when performed at the levels seen during UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest, it is truly electrifying.

The headline stars of this competition were Blanka Guzi of Hungary and Woongtae Jun of Korea, who earned the individual golds before Sunwoo Kim (KOR) and Changwan Seo (KOR) triumphed in the Mixed Relay.

It would be unfair not to also mention the six athletes whose exceptional Laser Run performances surpassed the previous world records.

Gintare Venckauskaite of Lithuania set a new mark of 10min 58.20sec, narrowly edging her team-mate Laura Asadaukaite (LTU) into the record books as they both smashed the previous record of 11:08.86 held by Jessica Varley of Great Britain. Guzi (HUN) also went under that time in her epic comeback to win gold.

Men’s bronze medallist Martin Vlach of Czech Republic held the existing world record of 9:58.00, which was rewritten by Andras Gall (HUN, 9:51.30) during Qualification A, only for Vlach (CZE) to set a new mark by Andras Gall (HUN) a few days earlier, with 4th-placed Changwan Seo (KOR) also timing comfortably inside 10min (9:54.60).

MEDALLISTS’ REACTION

Women’s champion Guzi (HUN) said: “I came from hell, because the last few weeks were really hard, and it’s totally a wonder what happened today and this week for me.

“I can’t believe I achieved such a great result. You know, it’s the first time I came first in a senior international competition, so what can I say? I think I’m the happiest of all the people.”

Silver medallist Gulyas (HUN) added: “It was a big race and I’m really tired. My full competition didn’t start as well as I planned because I had difficulties in Fencing, although I finished quite well in the Ranking Round.

“I love competing, I train for competing. I always enjoy every moment even if it’s not as good as I imagine. I always see little improvements, so I’m glad I was competing again.”

Bronze medallist Abdelmaksoud (EGY) said: “I am very happy with this medal, my second medal of the World Cup season. Thank you to my coaches and my family for helping me.

“This competition was very, very hard. First the Fencing was really tough, and in Laser Run I started 2nd and finished one place back, but I worked very hard.”

Men’s champion Jun (KOR) said: “After a silver in Ankara, finally I have the gold medal so I’m very happy. After the last World Cup we didn’t go back to Korea, we stayed in Europe, and I’m happy with the result today. Now I am going to prepare for the World Championships in Great Britain and the Asian Games in China.”

Women’s champion Guzi (HUN) staged a remarkable comeback to defeat her more celebrated team-mate, Michelle Gulyas (HUN), as well as bronze medallist Salma Abdelmaksoud of Egypt, in an astonishing sprint finish.

So great was the determination of the top three to claim a medal, they kept out one of the greatest pentathletes of all time, as 39-year-old Laura Asadaukaite of Lithuania came home just 1sec behind Abdelmaksoud (EGY) in 4th. Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU) also made an incredible gain to finish 5th, setting a new Laser Run world record of 10min 58.20sec.

The Men’s Final was a little less dramatic than the Women’s, with both Sunwoo Kim and Changwan Seo, who earned the individual golds, making it a clean sweep for Korea. They were joined on the podium by Woongtae Jun (KOR), who earned his first Laser Run gold.

1090 World records tumble during an elect...

Women’s champion Guzi...

UIPM 2023 World Cup Pentathlon Budapest

World records tumble during an electrifying Saturday as Budapest witnesses Laser Run heroics
home crowd, Gulyas (HUN) showed yet again why she is such a special athlete across all disciplines.

With her horse threatening to veer away from the second jump, the local favourite retained control just in time to complete the double obstacle and smoothly negotiate the rest of the course for a perfect score of 300.

Gulyas (HUN) was not the only athlete to achieve the maximum score. Her team-mate Luca Barta (HUN) also delighted the home crowd, and pentathlon legend Asadasuaskaite (LTU) also boosted her medal chances in the best possible way.

The Great Britain duo of Charlie Follett and Olivia Green and 3rd-placed Abdelmaksoud (EGY) also performed superbly, only conceding time penalties to take advantage of the misadventures of two leading athletes who suffered elimination.

World champion Elena Micheli of Italy was forced to dismount after her horse refused the very last jump, and overall leader Haydy Morsy (EGY) was never in control and sadly had to admit defeat in her medal quest.

FENCING

Morsy (EGY) came into the Bonus Round as the top scorer from the Ranking Round, with 245 points, and she shook off her difficult Riding experience by beating Gulyas (HUN) in the final bout to add four points.

By then, Gulyas (HUN) had marched further up the leaderboard by winning four bouts, following three wins for Follett (GBR) and four for Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU).

Mingyu Zhang of China performed strongly in the Ranking Round with 23V/12D, one more win than Abdelmaksoud (EGY) and two more than Michel (ITA). Gulyas (HUN) scored 20V/15D and Guzi 19V/16D.

SWIMMING

With Gulyas (HUN) and Abdelmaksoud (EGY) now jointly leading, good performances in the pool were vital and the local favourite surpassed her rival by half a second to move one point ahead.

The top three times were recorded by Michel (ITA, 2min 13.19sec), Gulyas (HUN, 2:13.69) and Zhang (CHN, 2:14.03), with Abdelmaksoud (EGY) and Guzi (HUN) next fastest and staying very much in the hunt.

LASER RUN

Trailing the world No.1 by 26sec, Guzi (HUN) started in 7th and immediately moved past two rivals on the first shoot, before overtaking Zhang (CHN) on the second run to move into the medal equation.

Ahead of her, the apparent gold-medal battle between two medallists from the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games was full of intrigue. Abdelmaksoud (EGY) gained 9sec on Gulyas (HUN) at the second shoot, only for the local favourite to regain the top spot on the third run. And every time this contest took a toll on the front runners, Guzi (HUN) made a gain on them.

The stealth attack was perfectly paced. Using her slight height advantage, Guzi (HUN) pushed so hard on the fourth lap that she arrived at the shooting range almost in time with the leaders. None of them froze under the pressure and the last 600m was destined to be a three-way race, even though they all kept a close eye over their shoulders.

Good performances in the pool were vital in an ultra-competitive Women’s Final in Budapest

The winner’s Laser Run time was 11:06.50, and it would have been a new world record if not for Venckauskaite (LTU) and Asadasuaskaite (LTU), both of whom smashed the previous mark held by Jessica Varley (GBR, 11:08.86) to go under 11min and surge into the top five. Green (GBR) beat Zhang (CHN) to the last place on the podium.

Riding

The standard of Riding in the Men’s Final in Budapest was nothing short of exceptional overall lead and Jun (KOR) stayed in touch with a 291.

Among the ‘300 club’, big moves were made by Laser Run specialists such as Vlach (CZE), Csaba Bohm (HUN) and Valentin Belaud of France, while Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine took the last place on the podium.

Men’s Final: Jun (KOR) shows remarkable consistency to reverse order on Shaban (EGY)

Leader Gulyas (HUN) moves clear, with apparently no threat to her supremacy in Budapest (HUN) ...
outcome. Zhang (CHN) became the first and only male athlete to suffer elimination.

**FENCING**

With four athletes tied at the top of the Fencing standings after the Ranking Round, the Bonus Round was unlikely to have a great impact unless there was a big move from the pack.

And that is exactly what transpired, as Jun (KOR) joined the ladder at No.6 and defeated every rival in his path for six straight wins and a 12-point boost that brought him to within two points of the overall lead.

For the third consecutive Fencing Ranking Round in this World Cup season, Shaban (EGY) could not be removed from the top rung of the ladder, but this time he was joined on 23V/12D by Zhang (CHN), Mihaly Koleszar (HUN) and Tymoshchenko (UKR), with Jun (KOR) one victory off the pace alongside Gianluca Micozzi of Italy.

**SWIMMING**

Bohm (HUN, 1:59.92) made a further gain on the leaders when joining Matteo Cicinelli (ITA, 1:59.59) by ducking narrowly under 2min, with Giorgio Malan (ITA) only fractions of a second behind the pace-setters.

However, once again the leaderboard story belonged to Jun (KOR) as his 4th-fastest 2:00.36 allowed him to move into pole position, five points ahead of Shaban (EGY) with Koleszar (HUN) and Tymoshchenko (UKR) the only others within 20 points of him.

**LASER RUN**

The unflappable Jun (KOR) is perhaps the best athlete in the world when defending a lead. He only had a 5sec lead at the start, but it grew and grew as he ran and shot with consistent efficiency, stumbling only at the final shoot when he knew he could afford to take 15sec to nail his shots and still cruise home.

World junior champion Koleszar (HUN) made a big impression in achieving his first top-six finish at senior level. The 21-year-old stayed close to 22-year-old Shaban (EGY) for much of the race, only letting his rival slip away at the third shoot. Still he held his speed and denied 6th-placed Bohm (HUN) the title of top-ranking Hungarian.

The drama of the final lap surrounded the race for bronze, which came to life when the muscular Seo (KOR) bolted out of the shooting range having made his way up from 8th to 3rd. He looked well set to join team-mate Jun (KOR) on the medal rostrum, but the world’s greatest Laser Runner had other ideas.

As the current world record holder (9:58), Vlach (CZE) paced himself superbly to snatch bronze and set a new global standard. In fact he smashed the record by more than 13sec with an extraordinary 9:44.80 that enabled him to overtake Seo (KOR, 9:54.60) on the final straight. Balazs Szep (HUN), advancing from 17th to 12th, also ducked under 10min with 9:59.40.

A day after world records had tumbled in the individual finals in the Hungarian capital, the third leg of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup season still had more excitement in store. Korea (Kim/Seo) and China (Zhang) made the most of Mexican misfortune to claim a glittering gold.
Seo took home the honours after their closest pursuers Mexico (Mariana Arceo & Manuel Padilla) found misfortune at a crucial moment before settling for silver. The young France team of Rebecca Castaudi and Jean-Baptiste Mourcia, both former World Junior champions, raced through the field for bronze having started the Laser Run in seventh place, over 30 seconds back. The drama arrived at the final shoot in the Laser Run when Seo (KOR) and Padilla (MEX) both departed the range neck and neck. However, Padilla got his feet tangled in a bag and could only watch as Seo (KOR) raced away to deliver Korea’s second gold of the weekend. Great Britain (Olivia Green & Henry Choong) had for a time held the lead during the climactic Laser Run but contented themselves with fourth place, narrowly ahead of Germany (Annika Zillekens & Dominik Olejarz) with Egypt (Amira Kandil & Eslam Hamad) in sixth. Fittingly it was a compelling and international end to the third World Cup of the 2023 season with three different continents among the medals and a total of 14 teams from five continents bringing the curtain down on a brilliant week of action in Budapest.

MEDALLISTS’ REACTION

Gold medalist Changwan Seo (KOR) said: “It was a very hard competition today but a great [victory]. We got a little bit lucky in the Laser Run and we feel some sympathy for the Mexico team. But we are so happy. It’s a good feeling.” His teammate Sunwoo Kim (KOR) added: “In Korea we place a lot of importance on the team and have a lot of support. This is why we have a strong team.”

Silver medalist Manuel Padilla (MEX) reflected on his misfortune on the final lap: “I don’t know exactly what happened. I just started to run and felt something on my feet. When I looked down it was something like a bag between my feet so I stopped to take it out and lost the chance of gold. I’m a little bit frustrated but the good thing is that we have had three Relays this year and in each one we took a medal.” His teammate Mariana Arceo (MEX) added: “I feel happy and sad but I am happy to have three medals in a World Cup this year!”

Bronze medalist Jean-Baptiste Mourcia (FRA) said: “Once we got to the Laser Run we knew we could make something of it because Rebecca is a fantastic runner and shooter. Me too! I think we made a good job. In front of us there were some people who maybe had a tough [time] shooting and we profited from this. We are very happy. His teammate Rebecca Castaudi (FRA) added: “We are so happy. Thanks to our trainers and staff. Merci beaucoup!”

In keeping with a week of impressive performances on horseback, the Riding discipline saw the majority of teams rack up high marks. The Japanese duo of Misaki Uchida and Ryo Matsumoto were faultless and fast to rack up maximum points, the only team to do so. However there were many more who were close to perfect.

The teams from Hungary (Sarolta Simon & Adam Marosi), France (Castaudi/Mourcia), Korea (Kim/Seo), Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) were at the head of the chasing pack and all put up scores of 290 or more. The early frontrunners in joint-first place were the duo from Sweden (Marlena Jawaid & Daniel Steinbock) who put it up to their co-leaders with a score of 291 only for Germany (Zillekens/Olejarz) to go one better with 292.

The Chinese team of Yufei Bian and Yu Zhang had the misfortune to be the only team eliminated from the Riding but they would bounce back in impressive style.

The Hungarian duo of Sarolta Simon and Adam Marosi enjoy themselves on home turf during the Fencing Bonus Round in Budapest

The Chinese athletes Yufei Bian and Yu Zhang make their entrance to the pool for Swimming action

**RIDING**

In keeping with a week of impressive performances on horseback, the Riding discipline saw the vast majority of teams put up high scores, ensuring things would remain tight at the top.

The Japanese duo of Misaki Uchida and Ryo Matsumoto were faultless and fast to rack up maximum points, the only team to do so. However there were many more who were close to perfect.

The teams from Hungary (Sarolta Simon & Adam Marosi), France (Castaudi/Mourcia), Korea (Kim/Seo), Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) were at the head of the chasing pack and all put up scores of 290 or more. The early frontrunners in joint-first place were the duo from Sweden (Marlena Jawaid & Daniel Steinbock) who put it up to their co-leaders with a score of 291 only for Germany (Zillekens/Olejarz) to go one better with 292.

The Chinese team of Yufei Bian and Yu Zhang had the misfortune to be the only team eliminated from the Riding but they would bounce back in impressive style.

**FENCING**

Having seen Germany (Zillekens/Olejarz) and Sweden (Jawaid/Steinbock) dominate the Fencing Bonus Round, the home favourites of Simon and Marosy gave Hungarian fans a spectacular show on the piste in the Fencing Bonus Round.

They racked up 18 bonus points to move up the field but weren’t alone in finding joy in the Bonus Round as the Estonian team of Johanna Maria Jogisu and Carl Robert Kalaste added six points to their tally.

**SWIMMING**

The pool prowess of the Great British...
The pairing of Green and Choong was all too apparent as they blazed to the fastest time in the Swimming discipline, clocking 1:54.86 to win the second heat.

But at the head of proceedings Sweden (Jawaid/Steinbock) were again proving they belonged as they won the final heat in the day’s second-fastest time 01:56.22 to ensure they would be out in front in the Laser Run.

In the first heat China (Bian/Zhang) had turned in their own stellar swim which proved to be third-fastest overall, clocking 01:56.56. A rare false start penalty cost the Brazil team of Isabela Abreu and Danilo Fagundes.

LASER RUN

With the Sunday rains which had been forecast for Budapest finally arriving in the minutes before the climactic Laser Run, the slick conditions were potentially going to be a factor in deciding where the medals would go.

Their pool exploits ensured Sweden (Jawaid/Steinbock) had an 11-second head start on Mexico (Arceo/Padilla), with Germany (Zillekens/Olejarz), Britain (Green/Choong), Korea (Kim/Seo) and Hungary (Simon/Marosi) all within 25 seconds and striking distance. France (Castaudi/Mourcia) were a spot further back but would prove well capable of closing the gap too.

By the time the women reached the shooting range for the first time, things had tightened up dramatically. Zillekens (GER), competing in a UIPM event for the first time since 2021, had taken the lead with Green (GBR) in hot pursuit and Jawaid gamely trying to keep Sweden involved.

With just three seconds separating the first five in the field now, Kim (KOR) grabbed the lead at the second shoot with Arceo (MEX) also accurate at the range.

But the lead was changing hands at a rapid rate and at the changeover it was Green who sent Great Britain teammate Choong off first, pursued by Seo (KOR) and Padilla (MEX).

Experience would prove key as the pursuers overtook Choong (GBR) on the first shoot with Mourcia continuing France’s remarkable climb up the leaderboard too.

The final shoot shaped to be crucial and when both Seo (KOR) and Padilla (MEX) put up five green lights almost simultaneously it looked like a sprint finish was on the cards. That’s when disaster struck for Padilla (MEX) as he got his feet caught in a bag at the range and lost almost six seconds untangling himself.

As it was, Seo (KOR) scorched ahead and may well have been impossible to overtake. Padilla (MEX) battled gamely to secure his third-successive Mixed Relay silver and Mourcia (FRA) completed the unlikely French comeback as he roared home for a stellar bronze ahead of Choong (GBR). Olejarz (GER) came in fifth, narrowly ahead of Hamad (EGY) who finished strongly.
UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara

Three nations share gold as Ankara (TUR) toasts local heroes on a dramatic closing day

Ieva Serapinaite of Lithuania and Mohamad Shaban of Egypt kicked off the gold rush at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara with individual glory. But it was the Mixed Relay 24 hours later that had the home fans really celebrating when Ilke Ozyuksel and Bugra Unal delivered a fitting end to an memorable week in the capital as they took gold for Turkey.

Serapinaite (LTU) and Shaban (EGY) showed the value of consistency to their advantage when each of them suffered a major malfunction on the shooting range. For Serapinaite (LTU), heir apparent to the throne of two-time Olympic medallist Laura Asadauskaitė (LTU), it was a second Pentathlon World Cup gold in consecutive years. To earn it she had to hold off a fierce challenge from two first-time medallists, Rebecca Langreth of Germany (silver) and Mariana Arceo of Mexico (bronze).

In the afternoon, the drama continued as Olympic champion Joseph Choong of Great Britain suffered elimination in Riding. His fellow Tokyo 2020 medalists capitalised, with Woontae Jun of Korea cruising to silver and Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) winning a hot contest for bronze. However, neither of them could compete with the magisterial Shaban (EGY).

When Ozyuksel and Unal delivered their own golden moment the following day, Turkey could toast the end of an impressive week with hardware to show for it.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "This second Pentathlon World Cup raised the bar again with top-level athletes well prepared and aiming to qualify for the Pentathlon World Cup Final back here in Ankara.

"I can only say thanks to the organising committee and the National Federation, and all those sponsors and supporters for providing a platform for this competition to happen.

"We keep in mind the disaster of the year, my grandpa died, so this medal is for him. I'm so happy and I know he would be so proud, so this means the world to me."

Bronze medalist Arceo (MEX) said: "I'm really happy, I want to try because it's my first medal in a World Cup, and it's the first for the women's delegation of the Mexico team. Thank you so much to my coach Francisco Gallardo and Sergio Escalante and Aldo, and my family. And thank you so much to UIPM."

"I am feeling so grateful that finally the hard work pays off. Also I had a very difficult time since at the beginning of the year, my grandpa died, so this medal is for him. I'm so happy and I know he would be so proud, so this means the world to me."

Silver medalist Langrehr (GER) added: "I cannot believe that I won this Pentathlon World Cup.

"We keep in mind the disaster of the year, my grandpa died, so this medal is for him. I'm so happy and I know he would be so proud, so this means the world to me."

Silver medalist Langrehr (GER) added: "I feel really bad, I went from 1st place to 4th, but this time I stayed in 1st and I'm the winner today."

"But it was really amazing because I don't remember ever moving from 3rd place to a higher place, but today I did that.

"I think today I prepared well mentally, because I know I cannot run faster than other girls. Today I just said to myself I had to focus on my shooting, because that is where I can be better than others."

"I was up against Joe Choong and Woontae and Elgendy, the three medallists from the Olympics, so it was really hard. At the last World Cup my shooting was really bad. I went from 1st place to 4th, but this time I stayed in 1st and I'm the winner today."

Silver medalist Jun (KOR) added: "Today was my first competition of the season and my body is at 80 per cent, so I'm very happy. In Ankara last year I won the World Cup Final so this is a good position to be in."

"It's a great start to the season, with a gold in Cairo and a bronze here in Ankara. With a good run and an average shoot I made the podium. I'm very happy to get this medal, and I hope to be better for the World Cup Final."

"I think today I prepared well mentally, because I know I cannot run faster than other girls. Today I just said to myself I had to focus on my shooting, because that is where I can be better than others."

"I am feeling so grateful that finally the hard work pays off. Also I had a very difficult time since at the beginning of the year, my grandpa died, so this medal is for him. I'm so happy and I know he would be so proud, so this means the world to me."

"I cannot believe that I won this Pentathlon World Cup."

Women’s champion Serapinaite (LTU) said: "I'm so happy for my first World Cup gold. It's so emotional for me, it was really hard. At the last World Cup my shooting was really bad. I went from 1st place to 4th, but this time I stayed in 1st and I'm the winner today."

"It is so emotional to be in the top 10 Riding scorers, with Kerenza Bryson (GBR) alongside Arceo (MEX) and Haeun Jang (KOR) on 293.

Men’s champion Shaban (EGY) said: "I'm so happy for my first World Cup gold. It's so emotional for me, it was such a hard competition.

UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara
In the last of the 18 rides, Kamilla Reti of Hungary, who had carried a 15-point lead from the Fencing Ranking Round, was unable to calm her horse and had to accept elimination after three refusals. She was not the only medal contender to suffer this fate, as it also befell Alice Sotero of Italy.

It was also a tough round for Egypt, as Malak Ismail was eliminated after a fall and Salma Abdelmaksoud incurred 41 penalty points.

**FENCING**

Attacking the body at speed, Jang (KOR) dominated the Fencing Bonus Round with five victories for an overall gain of 10 points, which lifted her briefly to 4th place. Langrehr (GER) ended her run and notched another two wins to put pressure on the top three of Oteiza (FRA), Serapinaite (LTU) and Clouvel (FRA).

The importance of the Fencing Ranking Round was underlined in the make-up of the leaderboard after two disciplines, as Oteiza (FRA), Serapinaite (LTU) and Clouvel (FRA) all managed 21 victories, only overshadowed by Reti (HUN) who scored 24V/11D.

**SWIMMING**

In trademark style, Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Clouvel (FRA) advanced on the leaderboard with her prowess in the pool, although not as much as she may have liked. A top swim of 2min 11.28sec enabled her to move 3pts closer to Oteiza (FRA, 2:12.95) and 3pts ahead of Serapinaite (LTU).

Outside of the podium equation, Seungmin Seong (KOR) and Abdelmaksoud (EGY) were the next fastest swimmers, both ducking under the 2:15 mark.

**LASER RUN**

Starting 4sec ahead of her nearest rival, Clouvel (FRA), and 29sec ahead of 4th-placed Langrehr (GER), a medal was there for the taking for Oteiza (FRA). Even after losing her lead to Serapinaite (LTU) on the second shoot, she reclaimed it on the fourth run, only to be overcome by nerves on the final shoot.

Four athletes entered the range simultaneously for this decisive shoot and Oteiza (FRA) was the only one who left empty-handed after a 32sec ordeal trying to fire her five shots. It was the second time in the race that a French athlete had fallen out of contention with one bad laser delivery, as Clouvel (FRA) had opened with a 29sec shoot that left her with too much to do.

As a result of the first two starters falling away, others realised that their perseverance was paying off. None more so than Serapinaite (LTU), who shot brilliantly throughout the race and paced herself well to finish 2sec ahead of Langrehr (GER) and 6sec ahead of Arceo (MEX).

Behind the top three, Laura Heredia of Spain moved up from 13th to 4th with an electric 11:15.70 Laser Run, the fastest of the day by 20sec. Langrehr (GER), Arceo (MEX), Kerenza Bryson (GBR) and Alessandra Frezza (ITA) also timed under 11:45 to finish 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 8th respectively.

**RIDING**

As the last rider, Shaban (EGY) waited for his turn as the Olympic champion was eliminated with his horse refusing to jump, while two-time world champion Valentin Belaud (FRA) incurred 50 penalty points. Elgendy (EGY) also dislodged two obstacles during his round.

As a result of the first two starters falling away, others realised that their perseverance was paying off. None more so than Serapinaite (LTU), who shot brilliantly throughout the race and paced herself well to finish 2sec ahead of Langrehr (GER) and 6sec ahead of Arceo (MEX).

Behind the top three, Laura Heredia of Spain moved up from 13th to 4th with an electric 11:15.70 Laser Run, the fastest of the day by 20sec. Langrehr (GER), Arceo (MEX), Kerenza Bryson (GBR) and Alessandra Frezza (ITA) also timed under 11:45 to finish 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 8th respectively.

Undeterred, Shaban (EGY) rode superbly to claim the maximum 300 points and retain his overall supremacy on the leaderboard. And he was far from the only athlete to show a mastery of Riding.

Jun (KOR) also scored a perfect 300 along with Pierre Dejardin (FRA) and Woojin Park (KOR), while Dallenbach (SUI) and Myles Pillage (GBR) stayed in contention with only seven points dropped.

**Men’s Final: Steady Shaban (EGY) steers clear of drama and shoots way to gold**

Men’s Final: Steady Shaban (EGY) steers clear of drama and shoots way to gold.

**The Riding discipline caused a major shake-up in the pecking order during the Men’s Final.**
FENCING
Carrying forward a 10-point lead from the Ranking Round, Shaban (EGY) continued to look unflappable as he claimed the four available points for winning the last bout of the Bonus Round against Bence Demeter (HUN), one of four athletes who had scored 23V/12D compared to the leader’s 25V/10D.

Changwan Seo (KOR) and Jan Kuf of Czech Republic also managed three victories apiece in the Bonus Round.

SWIMMING
With a standard-setting swim of 1:56.43, Myles Pillage (GBR) took the mantle inherited from Choong (GBR) and moved into 5th position overall.

Elgendy (EGY) clawed back a handful of points from the leaders with a time of 1:58.96, while Alexandre Dallenbach of Switzerland also ducked under the 2min mark. But there wasn’t much in it, with Jun (KOR) and Shaban (EGY) within a couple of seconds.

LASER RUN
Shaban (EGY) led things off 12sec ahead of Jun (KOR), who started more than 20sec ahead of his compatriots Park (KOR) and Seo (KOR). And the top two were never threatened.

The battle for bronze was much more intense, with Elgendy (EGY) making an immediate move from 6th to 4th and then moving past Park (KOR) into the podium position with a 6sec shoot. He bore the pressure well throughout the race, holding off the muscular threat of Seo (KOR) and the ominous presence of Martin Vlach (CZE), who had advanced all the way from 14th to 5th by the fourth circuit.

Up front, Shaban (EGY) did not rush and when he finished the last of four steady shoots in 11sec, Jun (KOR) followed up with a 10sec delivery but left the range almost casually, knowing the champion had done enough to earn his coveted career-first gold.

Apart from the peerless Vlach (CZE, 10:07.40), Dejardin (FRA) ran 10:26 to finish 6th, while Manuel Padilla (MEX) ended a good day for his team on a high with a superb 10:17.

Mixed Relay: Turkish delight as Ozyuksel and Unal team up to terrific effect
Ilke Ozyuksel and Bugra Unal delivered Mixed Relay glory for host nation Türkiye on the final day at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara.

After a tough week in the individual events, the two team leaders came together for a dynamic victory to end the competition on a high note for the local spectators, organisers and sponsors.

With 15 nations from five continents taking part, the Turkish duo led from the front in the Laser Run having earned a 6sec lead, but the other medallists had to work their way through the pack.

Mariana Arceo of Mexico earned her second medal in consecutive days as Manuel Padilla powered home for silver, while Myles Pillage came from nowhere in the final stages of the Laser Run to secure a first medal of the season for Great Britain alongside Jessica Varley.

MEDALLISTS’ REACTION
Gold medalist Ozyuksel (TUR) said: “We are very happy and it’s unforgettable for us to get our first gold medal in Ankara – it’s perfect and I can’t say anything else! I’m very happy.”

Silver medalist Padilla (MEX) said: “It was a really exciting competition. Mariana did really well to give me the relay in 2nd place, and I just finished it.

“We are really happy. Mariana and I have spent many years working together, so we know how to be a team and it’s a brilliant feeling.”

Bronze medalist Varley (GBR) said: “The Relay is always so close and we
started 45sec behind so I knew I had to go for it, but it was all Myles in the Laser Run – he smashed it.”

RIDING

With Türkiye (Ozyuksel/Unal) dropping 18 points during Riding, opportunities opened up for the rest of the field and two nations in particular took advantage.

With supreme horse management, Anna Waltermann and Fernand Zhang of China also stood out with only one transgression giving them a total of 293 to put pressure on the host nation.

Two teams suffered elimination: Lyudmila Yakovleva and Giorgiy Boroda-Dudochkin of Kazakhstan and Phaelen French and Caleb Allen of United States.

FENCING

To the delight of the hosting delegation and spectators, the Fencing Ranking Round was dominated by Türkiye (Ozyuksel/Unal) as their score of 19V/9D delivered a 14-point lift over the nearest competition.

Kristina Tchitadze and Gaga Khijakadze of Georgia scored 17V11D, one more victory than both Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) and China (Zhang/Bian).

The Bonus Round was dominated by Kazakhstan (Yakovleva/Boroda-Dudochkin), who responded in fine style to their Riding elimination to win the last five bouts.

SWIMMING

With five nations completing their relay swim in under 2mins, it was Great Britain (Varley/Pillage) who set the standard with a time of 1:56.22.

Paula Valencia Franco and Juan Ochoa of Guatemala were next-fastest on 1:57.54, narrowly ahead of Korea duo Sunwoo Kim and Jinhwa Jung, who otherwise struggled to make an impact on the competition.

LASER RUN

With multiple threats lurking in the pack, Ozyuksel (TUR) knew she would have to be at her best to give Unal (TUR) a platform for gold and she ran her three 600m laps with great fluency, taking her time with the laser pistol and keeping an eye on the chasing pack.

The race for silver seemed to be between Germany (Waltermann/Mitterand) and China (Zhang/Bian) but Arceo (MEX) was in the mood to shake things up and, despite a slow first shoot, managed to catch Waltermann (GER) just before handing over to Padilla (MEX).

In the second half of the race, Mitterand (GER) ran well and looked a solid bet for bronze, despite the attentions of Ochoa (GUA). But when he froze at the final shoot, it created a clamour and Ochoa (GUA) and Zhang (CHN) burst out of the range ahead of him.

They all reckoned without the bespectacled, muscular figure of Pillage (GBR), who had made up huge ground on the first 1200m to set up a classic sting. Flying past his rivals one by one, he finally caught Ochua (GUA) in the woodland section of the course and came down the hill to complete the journey from 8th to 3rd.

By now, Unal (TUR) had done just enough to keep Padilla (MEX) at bay, winning by 6sec despite some sticky shooting, and the host nation was enjoying its moment in the sun.
Leading off...

Pulses already racing as the City of Love prepares to welcome the world for a historic Olympic Games

Paris in the spring has plenty of romantic notions but as summer rolls into view, something else is appearing on the horizon — the greatest sporting event on the planet. Next summer the French capital will play host to sport’s greatest show when the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad return to Paris to celebrate the centenary of the 1924 Olympic Games there. But the countdown has certainly already begun.

With room for 72 pentathletes to join the 10,000-plus Olympians who will gather in Paris, the first qualification places will be up for grabs just weeks from now at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara. Every step of the way, UIPM will be counting down to the Games with a monthly look at the key storylines, essential background information and latest qualification news.

From July 26 to August 11, 2024, the entire city of Paris will be a hive of Olympic activity with 30 different venue sites hosting events during the 17 days of competition.

Modern Pentathlon will find itself in a truly iconic venue with the men’s and women’s Semi-finals and Finals taking place from August 8-11 in the stunning grounds of the Palace of Versailles.

The opening ceremony on Friday, July 26 promises to be unmissable. Organisers have promised the “most spectacular and accessible opening ceremony in Olympic history” with festivities taking place along the banks of the Seine and athletes being transported along the river by boat to a special stadium at The Trocadéro.

Organisers are expecting that as many as 600,000 fans will attend the unique opening ceremony.

With qualification fast approaching across many of the 32 sports, the dream of a place in Paris will soon become a reality for many. Watch this space to stay updated!

> Paris Pointer

A golden generation is giving Egypt the platform for a rapid repeat of African glory

When Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt crossed the finish line in Tokyo in the summer of 2021, he shattered over a century of history. Elgendy’s silver medal in the Men’s Final marked the first time an African nation had reached the Olympic podium in Modern Pentathlon.

As we turn our eyes to the next instalment in Paris next summer, there’s a growing suspicion that Egypt may not have to wait another 100 years for its next Olympic hardware.

If we look at the first three rounds of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup in Cairo (EGY), Ankara (TUR) and Budapest (HUN) for form trends and signals of who might be in the mix in the French capital, Egyptian names jump to the fore.

On the men’s side, Elgendy has bounced back from a shoulder injury to begin the season on fire, winning gold in Cairo and following up with bronze in Ankara.

However, compatriot Mohanad Shaban has looked even more formidable. A fourth-place finish on home soil in Cairo was followed by gold in Ankara and silver in Budapest last week.

Not to be outdone, Salma Abdelmaksoud has thrived in the women’s competition, claiming bronze in both Cairo and Budapest and cementing her place in the top 10 of the world rankings.

Remarkably, Abdelmaksoud, Elgendy and Shaban were all born within six months of one another in 2000. Truly, a golden generation of talent for Africa’s Pentathlon powerhouse. With Paris just 14 months away, Elgendy’s historic medal may not stand alone for long

> Numbers game

10,500 the estimated number of athletes who will compete at the Paris Olympics, although that total may rise a little once qualifications are complete. By comparison, the Tokyo Games in 2021 featured a final total of 11,656 athletes competing in the Japanese capital.

The first places will be confirmed at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR) where the winners of the Men’s and Women’s Final on June 3 will seal a quota place at Paris 2024. Full details can be found at uipmworld.org/olympic-games.
Partner organisations poised to establish a ground-breaking Modern Pentathlon facility in China have received praise from UIPM leadership after an official visit to the site.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang paid the city of Kunming a follow-up visit seven months after the announcement of the UIPM Asia-Pacific Development Centre (APDC). The trip was scheduled immediately after China relaxed COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions for international visitors.

The APDC, part of a government expansion plan with a total value of CHN ¥45bn (US $6bn), promises to supercharge UIPM Sports development in China and the wider Asian continent and support the global athlete community with a state-of-the-art and sustainable facility for training and competition.

The meetings from April 4-6 enabled UIPM to provide guidance about how the Centre can function most effectively as a competition venue, as well as maximising the potential of the training facility. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2023 with phase one of the project due to be completed in 2025.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Our ambitious partners in China have created a vision for a very innovative and unique facility, and we were very pleased to have several in-depth meetings with them when we visited Kunming from April 4-6.

“When construction on the UIPM Asia-Pacific Development Centre will begin soon, and our partners in Kunming and Yunnan Province are thrilled at the opportunity to collaborate with an International Federation that helps to protect the legacy of the founder of the modern Olympic Games and Modern Pentathlon, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

“The Asia-Pacific Development Centre will benefit all countries in the region, enabling UIPM to significantly aid the growth and development of the sport across Asia. This project will also benefit athletes around the world, with the possibilities for major UIPM events to be hosted at this dedicated base in China. As part of a wider complex in Kunming, the Centre will create further health and education benefits for the local population.

“We are grateful to the many parties working on this project. After opening its doors once more to the world, China now stands ready to open another door to world sport, by delivering an outstanding facility that can become a jewel in the crown of Modern Pentathlon development.”

As part of a Kunming government expansion plan, the UIPM Asia-Pacific Development Centre complex will be situated in a brand new city zone alongside residential buildings, malls, commercial offices and the headquarters of the city government. The city zone will be an exemplar of modern architecture and technology.

It is also designed with a commitment to sustainability, and the APDC will not only be equipped to host Modern Pentathlon but also other sports events and concerts, while providing communities with healthcare services.

The APDC will help UIPM Sports to grow not only locally but also worldwide. Besides hosting top-class global, continental and national competitions and events, it will be an important training centre for global Modern Pentathlon teams who can enjoy state-of-art-facilities and opportunities for altitude training at 1,600m.

The Centre also promises to be able to host future festivals, exhibitions and ceremonies across UIPM’s portfolio of physical, virtual and e-sports events.

Key players in the project include the Yunnan provincial government, Kunming Municipality and Yunnan Wuxiang Sports Industry Development Co Ltd, China Gezhouba Group Co Ltd (construction and engineering), Central-South Architectural Design Institute Co Ltd (architecture and design), Ctrip Culture and Tourism Industry Group (leisure and recreation), and Yunnan Health Industry Development Group Co Ltd (health and medical).
The historic and beautiful city of Bath (GBR) will play host to the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships from August 19-28. In the first of a new series of articles building up to the season’s flagship event, Event Director Rebecca Leach tells us about her vision and plans for the World Championships. Rebecca is an experienced event consultant who has worked in the sports industry for more than 20 years.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about this year’s World Championships?
A: Absolutely! The UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships take place over 10 days at the world-class sports facilities at the University of Bath. The Laser Run World Championships is taking place in the UK for the first time and I’m thrilled that we will be hosting the first-ever Para Laser Run World Championships during the course of this three-day event.

The Pentathlon World Championships offers direct qualification places for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which I am confident will add to the excitement at the event this summer.

Q: How was the University of Bath selected as the venue?
A: A number of factors contributed to the choice of venue. A key one is that the University of Bath is a world-class institution and has outstanding sports facilities in the renowned Team Bath Sports training Village (STV). The University is also home to Pentathlon GB’s national training centre, which has helped produce seven Olympic medallists including Tokyo 2020 champions Joseph Choong (GBR) and Kate French (GBR). Pentathlon GB hosts this year’s World Championships in the same year as the national modern pentathlon association celebrates its centenary. Finally, Bath is a beautiful place with a lot of history and vibrant culture and I know it will provide a memorable setting for everyone coming to the Championships.

Q: What is your vision for this year’s event?
A: We want to demonstrate how Modern Pentathlon is evolving through the delivery of an innovative, inclusive and athlete-focused World Championships, widening the global and national appeal of Pentathlon and the other UIPM Sports. We’ve created an ambitious social impact programme to underpin the Championships that will, for example, mean that all children in Bath and the North East Somerset region have the opportunity to try the sport for themselves. There is also a Swimming and Laser Run coaching scheme, enabling us to identify and develop new coaching talent to inspire and teach the next generation of athletes. We’re very pleased to be working in partnership with Bath and North East Somerset Council, the University of Bath and UK Sport to deliver this social impact programme and the overall event.

Q: How are you preparing for the Championships, and what can we expect to see from the athletes?
A: In collaboration with UIPM, we’re working hard to ensure that everything is ready for the combined World Championships, from the venue to the logistics to the technology. We’re also excited to see what the athletes will bring to the competition. We’re expecting to see some incredible performances, as well as some dramatic moments and unexpected twists and turns. Ultimately, we’re just excited to showcase the sports of Laser Run and Modern Pentathlon and to provide a platform for these amazing athletes to shine.

Letters of invitation to participate in the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships will be sent out to National Federations on April 21. To find out more visit www.wch2023.org
Landmark day as first ever Para Laser training event a huge success in Liverpool (GBR)

April 11, 2023 will go down as a landmark day after 25 athletes with a range of physical or mental impairments attended the first ever United Kingdom Para Laser training event facilitated by John Moores University in Liverpool (GBR).

The athletes, who ranged in age from 12 to 55 years old, were supported by National Disability Organisations and local disability charities in a bid to identify athletes for the 2023 UIPM World Para Laser Run Championships in Bath this August.

The session was led by Great Britain (GB) Pentathlon Coach Iain Aberdeen, alongside members of the UK Para Pentathlon Working Group. The day consisted of laser shoot coaching and training exercises, and exploration of the pre-existing UIPM format and classifications in Laser Run.

The athletes and coaches also co-created other ways to participate in laser activities through having access to static rowers, bikes and ski ergs to raise their heart rates mimicking the demands of a Laser Run.

Non-Executive Director of Pentathlon GB, Dr Nicola Robinson, said: “This Para Laser sport training day is the first ever in the UK and aimed at anyone who has a physical or mental impairment.

“The event, which is supported by Liverpool John Moores University internal funding and commissioned by Pentathlon GB, is so important to showcase how inclusive laser sport is and how it can be adapted for all abilities.

“Being part of this project means we are impacting local and national changes to the para-sports scene presenting an exciting new multi-sport concept.”

The UK have three more Para Laser training days planned before the UIPM 2023 World Para Laser Run Championships on August 21 in Bath (GBR) taking place alongside the UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

This will also have a National Inclusive Para Laser event for all athletes with a physical or mental impairment to take part in on the 19th and 20th August, where everyone entered will have a bespoke Laser Activity to complete and receive a medal.

The training day scheduled on June 18 will be for athletes who potentially fit into the already established classification set by UIPM and will consist of a training day with a classification workshop held at Bath University, home to the National Governing Body of Pentathlon GB.

Any international para-athlete who would like to attend this day please contact Nicola.Robinson@pentathlongb.org.

You can find out more about the World Para Laser Run Championships at https://pentathlongb.org/2023wch

Italian Federation launches Para Pentathlon project with special event in Pesaro (ITA)

With the aim of making further strides in sporting diversity and inclusion, the Italian Federation of Modern Pentathlon (FIPM) has launched the Para Pentathlon project, which the federation also hopes will help it join the Paralympic family and move forward in the promotion and enhancement of its movement.

FIPM wants to encourage the participation of people with disabilities in sport activities and a first step in this direction will be the Parapentathlon Promotional Event, organised during the Junior and U17 Open Italian Championships which are scheduled to be held in Pesaro (ITA) from May 6-7.

The exciting test will involve three laps of 300m running with three sets of laser pistol shooting. For an event that is as inclusive as possible, the FIPM has decided to open it to all disability classes.

Entries are completely free of charge. For information and registration, please contact parapentathlon@fipm.it
News from around the world

UIPM statement: Pathway to competition for athletes with Russia and Belarus passports

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has announced its full support for a structured return to UIPM Sports competitions for individual athletes with Russia and Belarus passports, based on the recommendations for International Federations published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on March 28, 2023.

UIPM reaffirms its unwavering support for the athletes of Ukraine and their communities, who have suffered so terribly as a consequence of the invasion of their country by Russia, supported by Belarus. Our determination to help and comfort the Ukrainian Modern Pentathlon community, especially in supporting athletes who continue to train and compete outside of their homeland, is the same as it was at the time of the invasion in February 2022. UIPM will continue to review this support and react any time there is an opportunity to do more.

UIPM supports the pathway of a return of ‘independent neutral athletes’ with Russia and Belarus passports to allow athletes of all nationalities to compete together in our sports, in line with the Olympic Charter and especially the principle of non-discrimination.

It is our firm belief that sport should be politically neutral and now, more than ever, must act as a vehicle for peace and a symbol of solidarity between athletes. UIPM will now work to develop the necessary independent review processes to facilitate the return of these athletes, in consultation with the IOC and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

Following a vote of approval by the UIPM Executive Board (EB) during its meeting on April 19:

1. UIPM will follow the IOC recommendations published on March 28 as mentioned above;
2. UIPM will set up an independent panel to review athlete eligibility based on criteria to be established by the EB in collaboration with the IOC, as well as timings for the opening of the pathway in respect of the UIPM Sports competition calendar, and any other relevant aspects.

UIPM supports the pathway of a return of ‘independent neutral athletes’ with Russia and Belarus passports to allow athletes of all nationalities to compete together in our sports, in line with the Olympic Charter and especially the principle of non-discrimination.

Coaching development in Africa continues apace with successful CCP course in Cairo (EGY)

The Egyptian capital of Cairo may have been the scene of a pulsating invasion in February 2022. UIPM will continue their journeys up the UIPM coaching ladder in Cairo.

The week-long Level 2 course from March 13-17 took place at Cairo Stadium and featured 19 coaches with 15 from the host nation, two from Uganda and one each from India and Kuwait.

Under the expert tutelage of CCP Level 4 coach Raouf Mahrous (EGY), all of the coaches present successfully passed and received their CCP Level 2 certification.

Africa has emerged as an area of exciting growth for UIPM sports in recent years and there is a continuing focus on coaching development ahead of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games. This course in Cairo (EGY) was the second of five in 2023 with three more to come.

"Cairo continues to be the site of very important moments in our sport and this recent course falls into that bracket too," said UIPM Coaches Committee Chairman Christian Roudaut.

"We have been clear about the benefits of putting time and effort into developing coaching in Africa as our sports continue to grow there. It’s so pleasing to see two African nations represented on this course and two other countries where our sports are developing. I want to thank Raouf and the organisers and I look forward to three more courses to come later this year in Africa."

Sylvestre Zare, President of the African Modern Pentathlon Confederation (CAPM), added: "First of all, I would like to congratulate the instructor Raouf who is passionate about sport and loves a job well done. I congratulate the entire Egyptian federation, headed by the indefatigable Sharif, who is the locomotive of the Modern Pentathlon development train in Africa.

"Training is the cornerstone of all development. Therefore, it is our number 1 priority. I hope that the knowledge acquired will be used by our pentathletes to make them more efficient. Africa is on the move."

History made as Saudi Arabia hosts its first UIPM Coaches Certification Programme course

The Middle East has seen a surge in interest in recent years and 2023 shapes to be a year of major growth. At the first UIPM Pentathlon World Cup of the 2023 season in Cairo (EGY), UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann met with representatives from Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates to discuss growth and development in their countries.

In February, Saudi Arabia hosted its first ever Laser Run National Championship with Biathle and Triathle also proving to be hugely popular vehicles for development. The Level 1 CCP course, which was organised with the assistance of the Saudi Modern Pentathlon Federation and took place in the capital of Riyadh in late March, is another sign of development in the Kingdom.

With expert instructor Marian Gheorghe (ROU), a UIPM CCP Level 4 Coach,
overseeing proceedings, 17 participants, including five women, went through a week of comprehensive work with all 17 successfully passing the programme and achieving their CCP Level 1 certification.

Zuahir Alshammasi, Saudi Modern Pentathlon Federation Executive Director, said: “The recent UIPM CCP course laid the first base for Modern Pentathlon coaches in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The 17 male and female coaches came from across all regions of the Kingdom, and we hope that will be reflected in the spread of Modern Pentathlon in the country.”

UIPM CCP Instructor Marian Gheorge (ROU) said: “I appreciate the interest of the Saudi Arabia Modern Pentathlon Federation in the promotion of Laser Run, Biathle and Triathle.

“All participants who got the Level 1 coaching certification were very enthusiastic about the new information received in the course, and they will become the new stakeholders who will introduce the new sport in their clubs or region in all cities around Saudi Arabia.”

“A significant step was made by the Saudi Modern Pentathlon Federation to create a new base for a new sport and I am looking forward to the future for Pentathlon in the Kingdom.”

Christian Roudaut, Chair of the UIPM Coaches Committee, added: “The UIPM Coaches Certification Programme continues to offer opportunities for coaches in all regions and continents respecting all levels of development.

“I was delighted to hear of the success of the recent course in Riyadh, which enabled a strong cohort of Saudi female and male coaches to achieve their first step on the ladder. My thanks go to Marian and everyone from the Saudi federation.”

2023 European Games ramp up with Judges Certification Programme course in Spala (POL)

At a hectic season of elite Modern Pentathlon competition already under way, it’s not just the athletes who are taking a step up — the judges are too.

An important and hugely productive UIPM Judges Certification Programme (UCP) course took place in Poland last week to prepare a cohort of judges for the upcoming 3rd European Games in Krakow (POL), with almost 50 judges taking part.

Under the expert tutelage of UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport, Montreal 1976 Olympic champion Janusz Peciak OLY (POL), the course took place in Spala from April 20-23.

The European Games will take place from June 25 to July 1 with 16 automatic quota places at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games on offer to European athletes.

With so many of the stars of the sport expected to descend on the city, the preparations ramped up on the judging side too. A total of 48 judges took part in the course, with 22 women and 26 men honing their skills under the direction of Janusz Peciak.

The judges were put through their paces across all five disciplines. Seven judges took the step up to Level 3 (International Judge certification with 22 moving up to Level 2 (Judge) and 19 judges achieving Level 1 (Assistant Judge).

UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport Janusz Peciak OLY said: “It was a real honour for me to play a part in getting Poland ready for the upcoming 2023 European Games. Judges are absolutely vital to everything we do in our great sport and we are always excited to see new participants begin their journey in the UIPM Judges Certification Programme.

“Just as importantly, seeing judges move up the ladder gives me great pleasure. I thank our participants for their efforts during the course and look forward to some great competitions later this summer.”

Former pentathlete Col. Nilton Rolim (BRA) elected as new President of CISM

A well-known former pentathlete and UIPM Sports community member has been elected to the highest office in global military sport.

Col Nilton Rolim (BRA) was elected President of the International Military Sports Council (CISM) at the 78th CISM Congress, after many years of serving as the administrative conduit between Modern Pentathlon and CISM.

Col Rolim served as President of the CISM Sport Committee for Modern Pentathlon from 2013-2023 and as Representative of the Presidents of CISM Sport Committees (PCSCR) from 2019-2023.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Col Nilton Rolim becomes the first Modern Pentathlon athlete to be elected as CISM President and on behalf of our global community I congratulate him on this distinguished honour.

“Nilton is a popular figure within our movement. Modern Pentathlon began as a military sport and connections remain strong with many pentathletes from various countries coming through their national military systems.

“We look forward to developing the close partnership between UIPM and CISM for many years into the future, and we stand together in underlining the importance of sport as a vehicle for global peace and respect.”
04.04. - 06.04.2023: Kunming, CHN

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann was joined by Secretary General Shiny Fang and Events Operations Director Dr Alexandre Franca for meetings relating to the construction of the UIPM Asia-Pacific Development Centre (APDC).

The APDC, which will become a central hub for Modern Pentathlon training and competition in the Asia-Pacific region, forms part of a $6bn government expansion plan for the city of Kunming, and President Dr Schormann inspected large-scale artists’ impressions of the urban development.

Accompanied by the APDC administration team who will run the Centre when it opens in 2025, the UIPM President and colleagues met with representatives from the Yunnan provincial government, Kunming Municipality and Yunnan Wuxiang Sports Industry Development Co Ltd, as well as entrepreneurs from companies specialising in construction, IT, health, education and sports.

06.04. - 08.04.2023: Shenzhen, CHN

In the second half of his visit to China – which was arranged as soon as COVID-19 travel restrictions permitted – the UIPM President received a presentation from the Chinese Modern Pentathlon Association made by the Secretary General, Bin Zhang.

The CMPA is officially bidding to host the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Shenzhen (CHN), and Secretary General Zhang and fellow members of the local organising committee (LOC) provided further information on their bid during the meeting.

Zhiqiang Wang (First-Class researcher of Shenzhen Culture, Radio, Film, Tourism and Sports Bureau) and Ms Zou Huifeng (Deputy Director General of Longgang District Culture, Radio, Film, Tourism and Sports Bureau) discussed with the UIPM President and Secretary General important steps relating to the facilities that would be used for UIPM’s flagship competition in 2024 if China’s bid to host the event in the dynamic business centre of Shenzhen is successful.
11.04.2023: Ukraine NOC

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann met online with Vadym Guttsait, President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine.

Igor Panin, President of the Ukraine Modern Pentathlon Federation, was also present and they spoke about the ongoing military occupation of Ukraine by Russia, supported by Belarus, and the difficulties Ukrainian athletes are having and how they are suffering.

UIPM President Dr. Schormann briefed President Guttsait that UIPM was the first International Federation (IF) that sent a letter to the NOC immediately after the invasion in February 2022, to express support for Ukraine’s pentathletes. Dr. Schormann also mentioned that the UIPM Executive Board would be discussing the situation in detail later in April, and considering the recommendations for IFs published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on March 28.

UIPM President Dr. Schormann briefed President Guttsait that UIPM was the first International Federation (IF) that sent a letter to the NOC immediately after the invasion in February 2022, to express support for Ukraine’s pentathletes. Dr. Schormann had important discussions with Ahmet Temurci, General Manager of the International Organisations & Foreign Relations of Sports Ministry of Türkiye.

One of the agenda points for the meeting was the future development of Modern Pentathlon in various regions of Turkey. The Turkish Federation will hold the UIPM 2023 U19 World Championships at the end of July in Istanbul, which will be the second official UIPM competition to include Obstacle.

The UIPM President also joined a delegation of UIPM and Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation staff for a pre-visit of the official hotel that will be used for the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR), where a high standard of accommodation for athletes and delegations will be provided.

19.04.2023: UIPM Executive Board

The latest online UIPM Executive Board meeting was joined by the IOC’s Kit McConnell (Sport Director) and Bram Schellekens (Head of Summer Sports & IF Relations). The focus of the meeting was the current exclusion of athletes with a Russia or Belarus passport and the question of if and when it would be possible for them to return to UIPM competitions.

The EB decided to support a structured return based on recommendations for IFs published by the IOC on March 28.

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann in discussion with Prof Dr. Veli Ozan Cakir (Türkiye Modern Pentathlon Federation President) and Inanc Ozcakmak (Deputy General of International Organisations and Foreign Relations of Sports Ministry of Türkiye)

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann congratulates Mixed Relay Gold Medals winners Ilke Ozyuksel and Bugra Unal (TUR) in Ankara
The EB also agreed on the setup of an independent panel to review athlete eligibility based on criteria to be established by the EB in collaboration with the IOC, as well as timelings for the opening of the pathway in respect of the UIPM Sports competition calendar.

23.04.2023: Nuremberg, GER

President Dr Schormann visited the Open German Championships U19 where he met with Dr Michael Doerr – President of the German MPF and Bavarian MPF – to discuss the inclusion of Obstacle in Youth Championships. They pointed out the great opportunity that lies before UIPM to promote Modern Pentathlon to new generations.

A historical step was made with this German Championship with the new Obstacle discipline fully integrated into the competition. The course created and used during the Championships will become a permanent sport facility for training sessions and future racing. The German Federation confirmed that another facility including an Obstacle course will be built in Bonn (GER) at the end of April.

26.04. – 30.04.2023: Budapest, HUN

On the first day of his visit to the Hungarian capital, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann met with UIPM Honorary Members Gyula Bretz (former President of the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association – HMPA – and UIPM Treasurer) and Dr Ferenc Tokor (Tokyo 1964 Olympic Champion and former UIPM Vice President), together with Secretary General Shiny Fang. It is always a privilege for the UIPM President to spend time with former Olympic champions, officials and Honorary Members of the Union, and UIPM has a particularly long and close relationship with Hungary.

UIPM President Dr Schormann also had a meeting at the Hungarian Parliament with HMPA President Dr Istvan Simicsko, joined by Secretaries General Fang and Mizser and UIPM Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer. During this meeting they discussed the present situation of sport development in Hungary and steps that have been taken to integrate the Obstacle.
Striding into the future with our 5E strategy

In March 2022 I wrote about the expansion of UIPM’s strategy with the addition of Evolution as a fifth keyword, turning 4E into 5E.

So how have we evolved as a multi-sports movement since then? First it is worth looking at the exciting developments in Education, Equipment, Education and Empowerment that have already made 2023 a year of great progress and achievement for so many of our global stakeholders.

Education

There will be a record number of courses delivered under UIPM’s Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) and Judges Certification Programme (JCP) in 2023. Demonstrating the expansion of this global educational umbrella, which enables so many coaches and judges to begin and continue their personal development, courses will be delivered in more than 24 nations across four continents this year.

Judges will be certified in China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Great Britain, Greece, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Poland and Spain. Meanwhile the JCP spreads even further to South America (Venezuela) and more presence in Africa (Burkina Faso, Chad and Guinea) and Asia (Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates).

Equipment

Earlier this year we launched equipment tenders for Obstacle Competition and Training Kits that will benefit the organisation of all three under-age UIPM World Championships that will become the first to include Obstacle as an integrated discipline of Modern Pentathlon in 2023.

Those three competitions are:

• UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Under 17 World Championships (Alexandria, EGY) – July 12-16
• UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Under 19 World Championships (Istanbul, TUR) – July 26-30
• UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Junior World Championships (Druskininkai, LTU) – September 12-17

Expansion

There was good news from the International Olympic Committee with confirmation that UIPM’s E-Laser Run game will be included in the Olympic Esports Week in Singapore in June 2023. A booth will be set up in the free play zone and E-Laser Run will have the status of a demonstration E-sport.

Meanwhile the UIPM family continues to grow, as we seek to welcome more and more countries into the Modern Pentathlon community. The new Obstacle discipline is truly a powerful enabler in this regard, because many countries had been previously limited by the requirement to provide horses for athletes to become full pentathletes.

Empowerment

The Obstacle-related resources released early this year enabled National Federations, competition organisers, athletes and coaches to get started with the integration of Obstacle at all levels except senior international competition.

We already saw a number of Obstacle-integrated Pentathlon tournaments organised by NFs in Portugal, France, Lithuania, Belarus, Spain, Germany, Korea, China and Türkiye. Check here every month for reports and updates!

Evolution

Any seasoned Modern Pentathlon viewer who watched UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest on UIPM.TV would recognise that our TV product has come a long way. The 90-minute format introduced for the Paris 2024 cycle has enabled us to produce a better, sharper, far more watchable live show.

We could stop now, or we could continue to evolve Modern Pentathlon as an entertainment commodity, attracting new generations of sports fans and bringing them to the Olympic Games. And of course, through the introduction of a Ninja-style Obstacle race in place of the equestrian discipline, that is what we are going to do.

Modern Pentathlon is moving with the times, don’t miss it!
Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at 2 May 2023:

**MEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GBR</td>
<td>Joseph CHOONG</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>Woongtae JUN</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Balazs SZEP</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Csaba BOHM</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>EGY</td>
<td>Ahmed ELGENGY</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>Changwan SEO</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Valentin PRADES</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CZE</td>
<td>Martin VLACH</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>EGY</td>
<td>Mohanad SHABAN</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>EGY</td>
<td>Mohamed ELGENGY</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Christopher PATTE</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Richard BERECZKI</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Bence DEMETER</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Valentin BELAUD</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>Jinhwa JUNG</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>ITA</td>
<td>Giorgio MALAN</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MEX</td>
<td>Emiliano HERNANDEZ</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>CZE</td>
<td>Jan KUF</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>MEX</td>
<td>Manuel PADILLA</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>UKR</td>
<td>Maksym AHARUSHEV</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WOMEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Michelle GULYAS</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Elodie CLOUVEL</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>GBR</td>
<td>Jessica VARLEY</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ITA</td>
<td>Elena MICHELI</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>LTU</td>
<td>Ieva SERAPINAITE</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TUR</td>
<td>Ilke OZYUKSEL</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>EGY</td>
<td>Salma ABDELMAKSOU</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>GBR</td>
<td>Olivia GREEN</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>GBR</td>
<td>Charlie FOLLETT</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>MEX</td>
<td>Mayan OLIVER</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>KAZ</td>
<td>Elena POTAPENKO</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>Laura HEREDIA</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>GER</td>
<td>Rebecca LANGREHR</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Blanka GUZI</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>MEX</td>
<td>Mariana ARCEO</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>EGY</td>
<td>Malak ISMAIL</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>Sunwoo KIM</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>Misaki UCHIDA</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Kamila RETI</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>CZE</td>
<td>Karolina KRENKOVA</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The latest UIPM World Rankings, World Cup Rankings and Olympic Games Rankings are all available at www.pentathlon.org

**Baron Pierre de Coubertin**

“The Modern Pentathlon event would test a man’s moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete.”

**UIPM HEADQUARTERS**

Stade Louis II – Entrée C
19 avenue des Castelans, MC-98000 Monaco
Tel. +377 97 77 85 55 | Fax +377 97 77 85 50
E-mail: uipm@pentathlon.org

**WEB**

www.pentathlon.org

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

/f/WorldPentathlon  /instagram /theuipm
@WorldPentathlon  /uiptv
/vivamodernpentathlon  /国际现代五项联盟